UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/203
16 March 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 16 MARCH 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the violations of Iraqi national airspace committed by United States aircraft in order to carry out reconnaissance, cause provocation, drop heat flares and break the sound barrier continued over the period 1 to 10 March 1995.

1 March 1995

(a) Northern region: 14 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Tall Afar, and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: 74 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Nasiriyah, Basra, Samawah, Chabaish, Khidr and Artawi.

At 1150 and 1415 hours on 1 March 1995, two United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in areas in the south of the country. They left in the direction of Kuwait at 1216 and 1517 hours respectively.

At 1255 hours on 1 March 1995, a hostile formation consisting of two aircraft broke the sound barrier over the area of Suq al-Shuyukh in Dhi Qar Governorate.

2 March 1995

(a) Northern region: 17 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Irbil, Dohuk, Zakho and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: 78 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Artawi, Suq al-Shuyukh and Busayyah.

At 1105 hours on 2 March 1995, a United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace, overflying Artawi in the south of the country. It left in the direction of Kuwait at 1227 hours.

3 March 1995

Southern region: 48 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Basra, Qurnah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Busayyah, Lasaf and Salman.

On 3 March 1995, three United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in areas in the south of the country, as follows:

1. The first flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1132 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1220 hours.

2. The second flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1420 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1525 hours.

3. The third flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1550 and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1605 hours.

4 March 1995

Southern region: 51 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Qurnah, Amarah, Basra, Busayyah and Artawi.

5 March 1995

(a) Northern region: 21 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Mosul, Irbil, Aqrah, Tall Afar and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: 74 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Qurnah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Jalibah, Artawi and Busayyah.

At 1125 and 1425 hours on 5 March 1995, two United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in areas in the south of the country. They departed in the direction of Kuwait at 1255 and 1553 hours respectively.

6 March 1995

(a) Northern region: 16 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Ayn Zalah, Dohuk and Zakho.

(b) Southern region: 75 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Nasiriyah, Basra, Amarah, Salman, Samawah, Jalibah, Busayyah, Suq al-Shuyukh and Jabal Sanam.

On 6 March 1995, three United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in areas in the south of the country, as follows:

1. The first flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1035 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1205 hours.

2. The second flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1145 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1405 hours.

3. The third flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1340 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1500 hours.

At 1215 hours on 6 March 1995, hostile aircraft dropped two heat flares on the Qush area in Ninawa Governorate.

7 March 1995

(a) Northern region: 19 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Zakho, Tall Afar and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: 106 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Nasiriyah, Amarah, Samawah, Artawi, Qurnah and the area south of Diwaniyah.

At 1030 and 1330 hours on 7 March 1995, two United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in areas in the south of the country. They departed in the direction of Kuwait at 1200 and 1453 hours respectively.

8 March 1995

(a) Northern region: 15 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Zakho, Aqrah, and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: 66 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Basra, Qurnah, Nasiriyah, Jalibah, Artawi and Busayyah.

On 8 March 1995, three United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in areas in the south of the country, as follows:

1. The first flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1108 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1147 hours.

2. The second flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1150 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1206 hours.

3. The third flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1325 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1517 hours.

9 March 1995

(a) Northern region: 23 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Amadiyah, Zakho, Aqrah and Tall Afar.

(b) Southern region: 98 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Amarah, Basra, Nasiriyah, Khidr, Samawah, the area south of Diwaniyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Salman, Busayyah, Jalibah, Artawi and Ushbayjah.

At 1225 and 2255 hours on 9 March 1995, a hostile formation dropped five heat flares on the area of Fayidah.

10 March 1995

(a) Northern region: 26 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Zakho and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: 87 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Nasiriyah, Basra, Samawah, Qurnah, Busayyah, Jalibah and Artawi.

At 1228 hours on 10 March 1995, a hostile formation broke the sound barrier over the area of Salman in Muthanna Governorate.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative